

NOV 26 2007

Application No: 10/753,321

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3111

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23, 25, 27-33, 35 and 36 are pending. Claims 23, 28, 29, 33 and 37 are amended. Claims 24 and 34 are cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein, that subject matter being incorporated into claims 23 and 33, respectively, and also into claim 29.

In section 4 on page 2, the Office Action objects to claim 23 for the specified reason. Claim 23 is amended as suggested from the Office Action. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 23 be withdrawn.

In section 7 on page 5, the Office Action indicates that claims 24, 28, 34 and 37 would be allowable is rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 28 and 37 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations recited in independent claims 23 and 33, from which claims 28 and 37 previously depended directly, respectively. Claims 23 and 33 are amended to correspond to claims 24 and 34 in independent form. Thus, claims 24 and 34 are cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. The subject matter previously recited in claims 24 and 34 is also incorporated into independent claim 29.

In section 6 on pages 2-5, the Office Action rejects claims 23, 25, 27, 29-33, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,010,565 to Sampson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claims 23 and 33, from which claims 25, 27, 35 and 36 depend, are amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 24 and 34, respectively.

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Independent claim 29, from which claims 30-33 depend, is also amended to incorporate this allowable subject matter. Accordingly, all of the rejected claims now recite allowable subject matter.

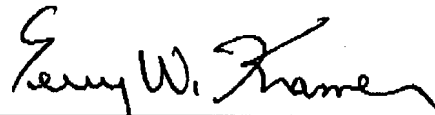
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 23, 25, 27, 29-33, 35 and 36 as allegedly being unpatentable over Sampson be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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